

Serial No. 09/616,372

**REMARKS**


Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are pending. Claims 4, 8, 11, 15, 19, and 22 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to replace the phrase "temporary thickness" with "apparent thickness" to make the terminology of the claims consistent with that of the specification. No new matter has been added.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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